Comma Notes

The Introductory Clause:

When Kelly was younger, she used to ride her tricycle around the house.

While arguing with Stacey, Sam threw his book on the floor.

The Modifying Clause/ Setting off appositives/ “the comma sandwich”

My dad, Manuel, was late to the party.

My mom, who has lived in Texas her whole life, always drinks iced tea.

\*\* Note: these modifying clauses are surrounded by commas, creating a “comma sandwich,” if you remove the “sandwich,” the sentence still makes sense. (It contains a subject and a verb)

The Compound Sentence:

I went to the store and bought apples.

I went to the store, and I bought apples.

\*Note: to create a compound sentence with a comma, you need to have a subject and a verb on BOTH sides of the comma so that each side can work as independent sentences

Listing Items:

At the store, Jennifer bought a red sweater, a blue jacket, and an umbrella.

My favorite colors are blue, purple, and turquoise.

Note: I am a fan of the Oxford comma and I want a comma in the last item of your list. However, if you do not include one, it is not technically incorrect.

Combining concepts:

In his play, *The Importance of Being Earnest,* Oscar Wilde explores identity, love, and manners, and he critiques Victorian society.